

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In one embodiment, the invention encompasses a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, as shown in Figures 1A through 1E. CPEPT is 477 amino acids in length. CPEPT has chemical and structural homology with VCP (GI 1718107; SEQ ID NO:7) and HPP (GI 190283, SEQ ID NO:8). In particular, CPEPT, VCP, and HPP share 42% and 28% identity, respectively. Additionally, CPEPT, VCP, and HPP contain the S, D, and H residues of the serine carboxypeptidase catalytic triad at S₂₀₄, D₃₅₁, and H₄₄₉ (CPEPT), S₂₀₇, D₃₅₁, and H₄₄₈ (VCP), and S₁₇₈, D₃₂₈, and H₄₅₇ (HPP).